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Talking Points: Possible Resumption of Israeli-Soviet Diplomatic Relations

While the possibility of such a resumption of relations cannot be ruled out entirely, there is little reason to believe that Tel Aviv is seriously considering such a step at the current time.

- The recent Jack Anderson columns resurrected CIA current intelligence reports published in 1975/76, when elements within the Israeli Labor Government were discussing/considering such an action.
- The Israelis may be encouraging rumors of a resumption of relations as a signal to Washington that not all of Israel's eggs are in one basket.
- The Israelis will give the idea little serious consideration, however, unless convinced that the move would bring them distinct benefits, e.g. guarantees from Moscow concerning a greatly liberalized exit policy for Soviet Jews.

Moscow, for its part, would probably perceive benefits in a resumption of relations.

- Its influence in the region clearly has suffered. The US is negotiating PLO and Syrian withdrawals from Lebanon, with the Saudis attempting to use their economic leverage to influence the Syrians.
- Moscow also may see opportunities in an expansion of its physical presence in the region. An embassy in Tel Aviv would give Moscow more eyes and ears in the area.

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